

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of)	
Stephen Terence DUNNE)	Examiner Jonathan Wood
Application No. 10/596,396)	Art Unit 3754
Filing Date: August 10, 2006)	
For: DISCHARGE DEVICE WITH A)	Confirmation No. 6050
METERED DOSE VALVE)	

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is presented the Office Action issued March 19, 2009, in connection with the above-captioned patent application.

* Proposed
Amendment *

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) Discharge device with a metered dose valve for metered discharge of a pressurized liquid, wherein the metered dose valve comprises:

a single valve element that is movable into three different selectable positions, and
a metering chamber with an associated inlet valve and an associated outlet valve,
wherein the outlet valve is closed and the inlet valve is open in a first position of the valve element so that the liquid can fill the metering chamber with a metered dose,

wherein the outlet valve is open and the inlet valve is closed in a second position of the valve element so that the liquid is discharged from the metering chamber to the atmosphere,

wherein the inlet valve and the outlet valve are closed in an intermediate position of the valve element, [[and]]

wherein the valve element is biased by a spring in a direction toward the first and intermediate positions,


wherein the valve element is actuatable and movable between the intermediate and the second position enabling a metered dose of the liquid to be discharged discontinuously or by more than one actuation of the valve element, and

wherein a settable control arrangement is provided having a first position in which movement of the valve element is possible only between said second position and intermediate position and second position in which the valve element is movable into the first position.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) Discharge device according to claim 16, [[18,]] wherein the spring is located within the metering chamber.



20. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 17, wherein the valve element is depressible against the biasing force from the intermediate position into the second position.

21. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 17, wherein the valve element is depressible against the biasing force from the first position into the intermediate position,

22. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 21, wherein a first stop is provided which defines said intermediate position and where in the valve element is depressible until the first stop is reached.

23. (Currently Amended) Discharge device according to claim 16, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the settable control arrangement comprises a first locking means for selectively locking valve actuation or movement from the intermediate position into the second position.

24. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 23, wherein the first locking means comprises a first stop which defines said intermediate position.

25. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 23, wherein at least one of the valve element, an actuation member associated with the valve element and a locking element is rotatable for locking and unlocking the first locking means.

26. (Currently Amended) Discharge device according to claim 23, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the settable control arrangement further comprises a second locking means for selectively locking valve actuation or movement from the intermediate position into the first position.

27. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 26, wherein the first locking means comprises a first stop which defines said intermediate position and wherein the second locking means forms a second stop preventing movement of the valve element from the intermediate position into the first position due by a biasing force, when the second locking means is locked.

28. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 26, wherein at least one of the valve element, an actuation member associated with the valve element and a locking element is rotatable for locking and unlocking the second locking means.

29. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 26, wherein the first locking means is adapted to be unlocked when the second locking means is locked and vice versa.

30. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 26, further comprising an actuation member associated with the valve element, wherein the actuation member comprises a portion engageable into a recess for forming at least one of the first and second locking means.

31. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 16, wherein the metered dose valve is adapted to completely discharge a metered dose of liquid from the metering chamber in the second position in a period of time that exceeds at least 2 seconds.

32. (Previously Presented) Discharge device according to claim 16, the metered dose valve is movable between a discharge state and a non-discharge state by twisting of an actuation member.